



Summary Report: Vienna Sport Day to commemorate the IYSPE 2005

On Friday, 24 June 2005, about 150 young people were invited to participate in a day of Sport in Vienna which was organized by the United Nations Information Service in cooperation with the City of Vienna and Wiener Bäder (municipal swimming pools) to commemorate the International Year of Sport and Physical Education. The main goal of the event was to raise awareness of the universal language of sport in bringing people together, and encourage young adults to lead healthy lives.

The Day of Sport comprised two events. "A physical education class with a difference" was held in the morning, at which Austria's most successful volleyball club AON Hot Volleys and swimmer Maxim Podoprigora showed high school students from Vienna special warm-up routines. The aim was to give the students an idea of the exercises and dedication required of professional athletes.

The volleyball event took place at Sportcenter Donauey. In attendance were the eight players from Hot Volleys; Ernst Nevrivy, the deputy mayor of the 22nd Vienna City district, representatives of the City of Vienna's international affairs department and sixty-eight students from various Viennese schools. Christian Strohmann of UNIS Vienna opened the event by explaining the purpose of the 2005 International Year of Sport and Physical Education. Then the Hot Volleys had the students split up onto different beach volleyball courts where they were taught how to play. A few quick lessons in the basics, and the students were eager to play, which they did; with and against the Hot volleys. At the end of the event few students were ready to leave but instead wanted to continue playing volleyball.



The swim event took place in the traditional Viennese bath Amalienbad, where European Champion and silver medallist in the world championships 2001/2003 Maxim Podoprigora held a training session in swimming with

Viennese secondary-school students (aged 10 to 11). After a small introduction on the subject of the International Year of Sport and Physical Education the students, their teachers and Maxim Podoprigora started to warm-up before the actual swim training started. After one and a half hours of swimming and collecting autographs of Maxim Podoprigora, the participants departed very thankfully. Especially teachers asked to be involved in upcoming events and projects of the IYSPE.

In the afternoon, UNIS Vienna held a panel discussion at the Vienna International Centre, on the opportunities sport can offer to young people. Renowned representatives in the field of sports came together to share their views with the audience. Among the panellists were two-time sailing Olympic Medallist Roman Hagara, Professor Günter Amesberger from the University of Vienna, Gottfried Forsthuber, President of the Austrian Table Tennis Federation, and Istvan Szabo, organizer of the Vienna-Budapest marathon, who illustrated his presentation with a video on a five-day running and cycling event from Budapest to Vienna. The panel discussion was chaired by Ms. Nasra Hassan, Director of UN Information Service Vienna. Also among participants was Dr. Ilan Fellmann representing the Department for General and International Sport Affaires of the Federal Chancellor's Office, the senior-most governmental body dealing with sports in Austria. The audience consisted of an Austrian high-school class, a group of US American students from Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and representatives of the media.

Photo series on UNIS Vienna Sport Day 2005